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TO: Potential Vendors

FROM: Sharon M. Wiggins
Procurement Specialist

RE: **ADDENDUM #2**
Request for Proposal (RFP)
MHCC 09-001

DATE: June 13, 2008

As mentioned, enclosed for your perusal is a transcript of the Pre-Proposal conference held on Tuesday, June 3, 2008. The Maryland Health Care Commission received several additional questions pertaining to RFP MHCC 09-001. Below are the questions with responses/clarifications relative to this procurement solicitation.

Please acknowledge receipt of this addendum. This acknowledgement should be included in the sealed technical proposal package. All sealed proposals (technical & financial) are due to the Commission no later than 4:00 p.m., July 11, 2008.

Enclosure

Question #1

RFP Section and Title: 4.7, Other Requirements, Section D Ownership of Data, Software, Information, and Reports, Subsection (a) and (b), page 22

Question: With respect to both (a) and (b) of Section D, it is our understanding that if the contractor develops or has developed software independent of the MHCC project that will meet MHCC needs as defined in the scope, the Commission's royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the material or work shall be limited to use by the MHCC or its designee. It is also our understanding that the contractor may then use the software for purposes independent of the MHCC, without authorization from the MHCC. Is this understanding correct?

Answer: *Your understanding is correct if the software has been developed by the contractor prior to the effective date of this contract and the vendor intends to use the software to fulfill the scope of work of this contract in whole or in part. It is important to note that costs, including software licensure, software modifications, etc. associated with use of the software developed prior to this contract shall be clearly identified in the financial proposal.*

Question #2

RFP Section and Title: 4.7, Other Requirements, Section D Ownership of Data, Software, Information, and Reports, Subsection (b), page 22

Question: Would the Commission accept, or have the means to accept, contractor-developed software in third party escrow?

Answer: *Without additional information about third party escrow, we cannot answer this question.*

Question #3

RFP Section and Title: General

Question: Pertaining to the vendor's responsibility in establishing and managing a data center to collect, process, and manage performance measure data, will the vendor be permitted to access de-identified patient data for its own analytical use?

Answer: *The contractor will develop public use files as part of the scope work of this contract. The contractor may request access to the public use files in accordance with State guidelines, requirements, and Data Use Agreements established by the MHCC.*

Question #4

RFP Section and Title: 4.6 Data Validation, page 21

Question: Does the data validation requirement include a requirement to validate administrative (claims) data, i.e., data used in calculating mortality measures? Or, does this requirement apply only to data reported that must be obtained from medical records, e.g., beta blocker at arrival for patients with AMI?

Answer: *No. The data validation requirement applies to the core quality measures data that is collected and maintained by the Quality Measure Data Center.*

Question #5

RFP Section and Title: 4.6 Data Validation, page 21

Question: Is it the expectation of State of Maryland that HCAHPS items will also be validated by the contractor?

Answer: *It is the expectation of MHCC that the vendor will perform general data quality checks to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the data.*

Question #6

RFP Section and Title: 2.0 Background: Maryland Hospital Quality Initiatives, page 12

Question: Will the MHCC continue to obtain hospital specific data from the QIO Clinical Warehouse and will we need to integrate that into the Hospital Performance Evaluation Guide along with the patient level data that will now be collected?

Answer: *In general, it is anticipated that the data collected through this procurement will obviate the need to obtain data from the QIO Clinical Warehouse.*

Question #7

RFP Section and Title: Appendix C, MHCC Website Requirements

Question: We would appreciate further clarification and details on the general technology requirements and whether there is any flexibility at various layers of the architecture and technical design solving with technology other than what's listed in the stated requirements (VB.Net, MS Windows Server 2003, MS SQL Server 2005, etc) in Appendix C. We ask from a perspective of whether we can leverage, where appropriate, components and modules already designed, thus lowering the overall development cost for the program.

Answer: *Appendix C applies to the MHCC website only. The MHCC does not object to the contractor's using existing components and modules already designed on the contractor's website provided that the requirements for the Hospital Guide are met. All source programs, data structures, and graphic objects must be available for reuse by the MHCC or its designee.*

Question #8

RFP Section and Title: 4.3 Data Analysis and Report Generation, page 19

Question: If available, please provide examples or design prototypes of a desired Annual Report and Quality Measure Statistical Brief.

Answer: *The contractor is responsible for developing the prototypes for the Annual Report and Statistical Briefs. Examples of MHCC reports are available on the MHCC website.*

Question #9

RFP Section and Title: 2.0 Volume I: Technical Proposal, 2.1 Format, page 26

Question: Please confirm that the only page limit is five pages for the statement of the problem.

Answer: *You are correct that the only page limit is related to the five page limit for the “Statement of the Problem”.*

Question #10

How frequently will data be delivered from the participating hospitals to the Data Center?

Answer: *Data shall be transmitted to the Quality Measures Data Center on a quarterly basis. Hospitals shall be provided the opportunity to update the quarterly submissions in accordance with established timelines.*

Question #11

Can the State provide estimates for the following?

- a. Approximate database size anticipated
- b. Number of cases per year to be stored

Answer: *To develop an estimate of the database size, we recommend that you refer to the Hospital Guide website. The website provides information on the number of Maryland acute care hospitals (47) and the number of cases currently reported for the existing 18 quality measures. Additional information for Maryland hospitals on volume of cases can be found on the CMS Hospital Compare website.*

Question #12

What is the data retention requirement for the Quality Measures Data Center?

Answer: *Because trend analysis is anticipated, retention of the core measures and the data used to construct the core measures will extend over the duration of the contract. The contractor shall assume permanent retention of all data collected beginning with 2007 data.*

Question #13

Is the secure Website hosted by the selected contractor, mentioned in Section 4.1, subsection C and in Section 4.2, for Hospitals to preview their own data prior to public release subject to the same Requirements for Web Development (Appendix C) as the website hosted by the MHCC?

Answer: *Appendix C applies to the MHCC website only. The contractor site for the hospital preview data is not subject to the MHCC web development standards. However, the compatibility of a vendor’s system and development tools with those used at MHCC will be considered during the evaluation process, as the additional conversion costs would have to be absorbed under the contract. If a vendor proposed to develop the hospital preview site using significantly different tools, MHCC would expect that the vendor would describe why that would be an advantage to the State.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ADDENDUM

I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the Addendum #2, MHCC 09-001 entitled “Establish and Manage a Quality Measures Data Center to Support the Maryland Hospital Performance Evaluation System” dated June 13, 2008.

Signature

Print Name

Company

Address

Phone